



Request for City Council Committee Action From the Department of

Date: July 14, 2004

To: Public Service and Regulatory Services Committee Chair, Dan Niziolek

Subject: Taxicab Safety Ordinance

Recommendation

Staff recommends the changes to City of Minneapolis Code of Ordinance Chapter 341 relating to safety equipment in taxi cabs be adopted.

Previous Directives

(any past Council actions or directions to staff)

Prepared or Submitted by: Duane Haponuk

Approved by (names, title, signature)

Presenters in Committee: Pamela Selinski, Traffic Control Supervisor

Financial Impact (Check those that apply)

☒ No financial impact - or - Action is within current department budget.
(If checked, go directly to Background/Supporting Information)

- ☐ Action requires an appropriation increase to the Capital Budget
- ☐ Action requires an appropriation increase to the Operating Budget
- ☐ Action provides increased revenue for appropriation increase
- ☐ Action requires use of contingency or reserves
- ☐ Other financial impact (Explain):

☐ Request provided to the Budget Office when provided to the Committee Coordinator

Community Impact (use any categories that apply)

Neighborhood Notification
City Goals
Comprehensive Plan
Zoning Code
Other

Background/Supporting Information Attached

In 2003, driver safety issues were brought forward with the murder of two drivers. A taxicab safety committee, chaired by Councilmember Zimmerman was established to identify safety issues and research safety equipment. The committee is made up of taxicab drivers, owners, other interested parties and City of Minneapolis staff.

After identifying industry needs and concerns, research into a variety of safety products was completed. Information gathered was presented to all safety committee members and after extensive discussions a recommendation for the Taxicab Service Committee was agreed upon. The recommendation to accommodate individual owners as well as large corporations by allowing service companies to determine the kind and amount of safety equipment to be used. After several discussions the Taxicab Service Committee, chaired by Council Member Johnson Lee, agreed to recommend the ordinance changes to the city council.

The ordinance change requires all taxicabs be equipped with approved safety equipment. Minimum standards and specifications are required for each type of equipment which will be published in a book of standards. Changes will be effective May 1, 2005.

Safety equipment options include digital camera security systems, security shields and global positioning systems.